

State Commission

Nevada Volunteers oversees a portfolio of 10 AmeriCorps State grantees which in 2015- 2016 will support 294 AmeriCorps members serving in 10 of Nevada's 16 counties in the areas of education, health, environment, economic opportunity, disaster and capacity building. Nevada's AmeriCorps programs serve a critical role in meeting diverse, locally identified needs for the seventh largest state which has 87 percent of the land publicly owned. In 2014, local partners matched federal funding with 84 cents for every dollar received. AmeriCorps members engaged community volunteers in serving more than 282,333 hours, a value of more than \$5.3 million to Nevada. In 2014-15 AmeriCorps members improved 119,267,280 square feet of public land, supported 50,373 students in education, and provided 18,919 individuals with food assistance. Additional programs led by Nevada Volunteers include the Governor's Points of Light Award, the Governor's Volunteer Recognition Certificate, hosting the statewide volunteer matching web portal, and offering quality volunteer program training including being Nevada's only Service Enterprise Hub which increases the organizational effectiveness of nonprofits across the state.

AmeriCorps State

In 2014-15 program year, AmeriCorps members serving through the Great Basin Institute's Nevada Conservation Corps built and improved more than 100 miles of trails to encourage recreation on public lands for all stakeholders. Additionally, the AmeriCorps members improved more than 2,125 acres of public land. Last summer, Nevada Conservation Corps AmeriCorps members completed the Ash to Kings Trail, a multi-year project that was supported by more than 12,000 hours of member service. This project was the result of a public private partnership that included local nonprofits, private foundations, and state and federal land management agencies.

The Justice AmeriCorps program at University of Nevada Las Vegas Boyd School of Law's Thomas and Mack Legal Clinic engages two full-time AmeriCorps members to serve directly in representing unaccompanied immigrant minors and finding additional resources that can support them. These efforts resulted in 71 minors receiving support and the recruitment of 12 attorneys that provide pro bono services.

AmeriCorps National

The Great Basin Institute's AmeriCorps members remove noxious weeds in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Ely, Austin, Carson, and Santa Rosa Ranger Districts. Noxious weeds, which are more aggressive than common or nuisance weeds, are destructive and difficult to control or eradicate and cause habitat loss and degradation. The AmeriCorps members surveyed for noxious weeds, mapped invaded areas, and treating affected areas with herbicide. In the 2016 field season, ten noxious weed technicians treated approximately 5,500 acres of invaded habitat across northern Nevada. This treatment eventually reduces the presence and spread of noxious weed species. The members' service in the Noxious Weed program greatly benefits the state's landscapes, wildlife, and habitat health. Additionally, the AmeriCorps members gain professional development opportunities through Pesticide Applicator Certification training and Wilderness First Aid/CPR training.

AmeriCorps VISTA

Local casinos in Reno continued their generous donations of cards and dice to include in the Washoe County School District's (WCSD) "Math Paths" kits that the WCSD AmeriCorps VISTA project delivers to area schools. The VISTA project has received 66,566 used books (valued at \$166,415) and 10,618 new books (valued at \$53,090) for their Read to Succeed Incentive Book Program from grants and book drives. The program will distribute the books to schools and at educational events during the program year.

Mo Loden, an AmeriCorps VISTA member with the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, assisted her site supervisor in writing and securing a \$10,000 grant from the E.L. Cord Foundation to support the development of the Student Stewards Program. During her service term, Mo has been instrumental in securing \$30,500 to support the program, which partners with teachers in Title I schools to help them develop hands-on, in-park Citizen Science projects that meet the new requirements of the Next Generation Science Standards and engage students directly in their communities. The program opens students' eyes to the value and opportunities that exist in the science field and will help prepare them for success in postsecondary education and careers in science.

AmeriCorps NCCC

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Nevada's mission (BGCSNV) is to enable all youth to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Based on the needs and interests of club members, the clubs provide a variety of activities in five areas: character and leadership development, education and career development, the arts, sports fitness and recreation, and health and life skills. AmeriCorps NCCC members joined BGCSNV to serve as education mentors for the Clubs' Kidz Lit program, where they assisted children in developing reading fluency and offered support with other basic homework skills. Because of the mentoring they received from AmeriCorps NCCC members, youth reached their attendance goals and became eligible to help their high-achieving peers create literacy awareness murals at four of the Clubhouses. Members also worked on a number of events and infrastructure improvements for the Clubhouses, including building a playground, coordinating and leading volunteers, setting up and providing customer service at BGCSNV's annual fundraising event and coordinating a food distribution event for families in need.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

Catholic Charities' 58 Foster Grandparents serve at 15 low-income schools throughout Clark County. Lorraine Watson, Assistant Principal at Rundle Elementary, said the program works and provided records for three students who were tutored by Foster Grandparents. One student was reading at 12 words a minute at the beginning of the year and had improved to 42 words per minute. A second second-grader went from 32 words per minute to 59, and a third went from 15 to 39 words per minute. At Rundle, about 43 percent of the students are English Language Learners and Foster Grandparents make a huge difference. Assistant Principal Watson said, "It's really a joy having these Grandparents here."

Senior Corps RSVP

Nevada Rural Counties RSVP provides farmer's market coupons to residents of Carson City. RSVP field representatives in Dayton, Fernley, Silver Springs, Virginia City, Ely and Caliente distribute coupons throughout the month of June each year. All in all, more than 5,000 seniors in the state of Nevada will benefit from the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, which provides low-income seniors with \$30 worth of coupons to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers. Not only do seniors derive the benefits from the fresh food, the program also provides elders with exercise and an opportunity for socialization at the farmer's markets. RSVP volunteers provide a large variety of services in the community and make Nevada a great place to live.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

Ken N. is Seniors in Service's longest-serving Senior Companion. He has been with the program for 19 years and just advised the coordinator that "he's going to slow down now since he's getting older" (he turns 92 this year). Ken is a reliable, gentle, and unassuming volunteer who is dedicated to visiting his clients. Ken was a paratrooper in World War II and has led an amazing life. He has enjoyed the benefits of volunteering which he attributes to his longevity. Volunteering gives him purpose and meaning as he enjoys helping others. Ken was awarded the first annual Seniors in Service Achievement Award - Senior Companion in 2014 and there is a wall of his artistic creations dedicated to him in the Senior Companion Program office. Ken is an unsung hero and continues to provide valuable service to assist older adults in living independently in their homes.

Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) transforms lives by using evidence to find what works and make it work for more people. The SIF Classic and SIF Pay for Success programs harness the expertise of grantmaking intermediaries to identify, evaluate and expand effective nonprofits serving low-income communities across America. In 2015 the SIF Pay for Success program spread to Nevada and programs there are working primarily towards creating strategies to improve social outcomes in early childhood education. The Social Innovation Fund is investing \$147,000 in expanding the impact of four nonprofits in Nevada.